

DR. JOHN R. FRANCIS ON "SHAMS."

Editor Colored American:—

You asked me for an expression as to Mr. Morris' lecture on "Shams," etc.

In reply I will say that Mr. Morris captivated me for the splendid way in which he did what he attempted to do. Of all men I admire the man who is capable and does well the work which he attempts to do. Mr. Washington is doing well and very well the work which he attempts to do;—a very necessary and most valuable work for the uplifting of his race. Mr. Morris has not yet persuaded me to believe to the contrary. It is true that I do not agree with all that Mr. Washington has said and done, according to reports. I have yet to find the man with whom I can do this. In my opinion, Mr. Washington has committed errors. What man has not? In many cases I believe he has been misrepresented. What man has not?

On the whole I believe that Mr. Washington's work is invaluable



DR. JOHN R. FRANCIS.

and he is now simply going through the ordeal that all men who, from time immemorial, have been engaged in important reformation have passed. These occasional outbursts of criticism, abuse and passion do not hurt but, on the contrary, tend to strengthen, in their work, men of Mr. Washington's mental calibre and manly stamina.

In my opinion, the principal disturbing element in this Booker T. Washington matter is the fact that the colored race is sadly, (yes, very sadly) in need of a few more specialists, along lines of their own choice, of Mr. Washington's enthusiasm, devotion, earnestness, strength and character. When the race can produce a few more men like Booker T. Washington who can do their special work as well, making, if they choose, all men and all things else subservient to their specialty, (if the whiners permit it,) then and not till then, will they become a recognized factor in the affairs of the universe.

Yours for Justice,
Jno. R. Francis, M. D.

BRICKS WITHOUT STRAW.

There are some of our people who are wondering why it is the colored newspapers do not contain more news, that they do not belong to the Associated Press; that with one whole week they could afford to print more news, like the great dailies. These people should know that it takes money to print news; that it takes money to give to the collection of news; that it takes money to belong to the Associated Press; that it takes the patronage of the colored people to furnish the money to do these things. Again, the very fact of a newspaper being edited by and run by colored men is sufficient evidence for the colored people to withdraw their support. Again he knows where the collector for a "colored newspaper" will call on a great many of its colored patrons for their unpaid-for subscriptions, when the collector will be notified that he has only the money to pay for his daily paper, and that he must wait until the robbins nest again before he gets his; when at the same time that very daily would not and does not publish a line about their social or church doings, nor do they defend their cause. The remedy is this: Give to the "colored newspapers" your entire support and stop finding fault.—Illinois Idea.

COLORED STENOGRAPHER APPOINTED.

To Charles E. Conick, Jr., of Yonkers, N. Y., who is employed in the Court of Hon. Theodore H. Silkman, Surrogate of Westchester County, has come the honor of being appointed the stenographer to the Commissioners of Estimate and Assessment in the matter of claim for damages arising out of the change of grade of various streets in the City of Yonkers. Considerable testimony is to be taken in this matter, and the competition for the appointment by various stenographers in this district was very keen, but Mr. Conick secured the appointment easily.

Mr. Conick has been in the Surrogate's Court for over three years, and besides being a substituted stenographer for the County Court of Westchester County, is the stenographer for the Good Roads Commission appointed by the Board of Supervisors of the County and he is also one of the official stenographers to the Coroners of the same County, and is the only colored man employed by the County.

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